

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

*Those who seek greatness should forget greatness and seek truth,
and they will find both. —Horace Mann*

Do you remember the expression, “She’s the real McCoy!”? This used to be a very popular way to say that someone was genuine and authentic. What you “see is what you get.”

The origins of this phrase are shrouded in mystery. It might come from the Scottish expression, “The real MacKay,” which appears as early as 1856. Writer Robert Louis Stevenson, a Scotsman, mentions the phrase in a letter written in 1883.

But the intent behind the phrase was raised centuries earlier when a man imprisoned unjustly sent word to Jesus of Nazareth — a note that asked him, in effect, if he was “the real McCoy.”

“Are you the one or are we to wait for another?” asks John the Baptist in verse 3 of today’s Bible reading. Clearly, this question reflects a certain level of doubt. Who can blame him? He’s in prison. And when you’re in prison, you doubt and second-guess everything.

Don’t we do the same when we feel trapped and tied down with insufferable responsibilities and burdens? Don’t we then ask, “God, is this what you promised? Is this what you want for me, or is there another path I can take?”

Jesus reminded John that “the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them” (v. 5). John the Baptist needed a few words of encouragement. Jesus gave him an answer that no doubt encouraged him, but should encourage us as well.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, open my eyes to see all that You are doing. Strengthen me to be a part of it. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Wishing you God's Joy on the 3rd Sunday of Advent,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Psalms 142-145
- Monday:** Psalms 146-147
- Tuesday:** Psalms 148-150
- Wednesday:** Revelation 13-14
- Thursday:** Revelation 15-18
- Friday:** Proverbs 8-11
- Saturday:** Proverbs 12-14



3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3

THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT!

Strike out four 3s so that there are only three 3s in each row and three 3s in each column. Find two different ways to do it. Two solutions are below.

COMPOUND WORDS

Combine the 3-letter words on the top with the 3-letter words on the bottom to form 20 new words. You can use each word only one time. For example: teapot.

tea	bat	boo	car	out
for	nap	man	fat	but
box	cot	dim	tip	arm
tip	red	car	bed	see

ton	ton	top	kin	her
pit	eye	car	wit	pet
toe	wit	boo	age	bid
saw	ten	ton	pot	pan

- COMPOUND WORDS:** teapot, forbid, boxcar, tiptop, bather, napkin, cotton, redeye, booboos, manage, dimwit, carpet, carton, fatten, tiptoe, bedpan, outwit, button, armpit, seesaw.

